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The opinion in support of the decision being entered today was not written for publication and is not binding precedent of the Board.

Paper No. 31

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS
AND INTERFERENCES

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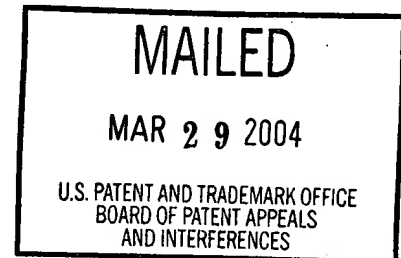
APR 23 2004

DIRECTOR OFFICE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2000

Ex parte THOMAS D. HENDERSON
and GEORGE W. BATES

Appeal No. 2002-1113
Application 09/013,645¹

ON BRIEF



Before THOMAS, BARRETT, and RUGGIERO, Administrative Patent Judges.

BARRETT, Administrative Patent Judge.

DECISION ON REQUEST FOR REHEARING

Appellants timely filed a request for rehearing (Paper No. 30) (pages referred to as "RR__") on February 18, 2004, seeking reconsideration of our decision (Paper No. 29) (pages referred to hereafter as "D__") entered December 19, 2003.

¹ Application for patent filed January 26, 1998, entitled "Landscape Camera System With Electronic Field of View Switching."

We have reconsidered our decision in light of appellants' request for rehearing, but are not persuaded of any error therein. Accordingly, the request for rehearing is denied.

ANALYSIS

The rejection

With respect to claim 1, Henderson discloses that in flight entertainment systems have gone to individual viewing screens for the passengers who can select from a variety of sources representing different video sources (col. 1, lines 14-33) where the camera control unit (CCU) can be configured to interface directly with all popular camera-control equipment video system control units and cabin management systems (col. 4, lines 7-15). Thus, Henderson implicitly discloses "[a] closed circuit television system for an in flight entertainment system for an aircraft, said system comprising: an in flight entertainment local area network providing audio and video output" and "a plurality of video display modules connected to said in flight entertainment local area network for selecting and displaying a selected video image." Henderson discloses a camera module unit (CMU) (cols. 6-7) having two video cameras providing forward and downward fields of view and, thus, teaches "at least one video camera providing a field of view forward and downward from the aircraft's centerline, said at least one video camera generating a digital video signal providing a plurality of video images,"

where appellants did not challenge the "digital" limitation. Henderson discloses that "both camera signals are continuously available which can be used as video programming for multi-channel seat-back individual video systems" (col. 4, lines 7-10) and discloses a system control unit (SCU) located where it is accessible to a cabin crew member which provides the control functions for switching between the forward and downward looking cameras, lens zoom in and out, camera focus, and display selection, and providing them to the entertainment system (Fig. 4; col. 8, lines 8-19). Thus, Henderson discloses "a video camera module connected to said in flight entertainment local area network, said at least one video camera and said plurality of video display modules for receiving said digital video signal and providing a plurality of selected video images to said plurality of video display modules, respectively," where this limitation does not distinguish over providing the two camera signals as separate channels for selection by passengers.

The only limitation argued by appellants on appeal is "a plurality of personal control units connected to said in flight entertainment local area network, each of said plurality of personal control units corresponding to respective ones of said plurality of video display modules and connected to said video camera control module for operating the video camera control module to independently select a desired field of view for each

of said video display modules." We agreed with appellants that this is the issue (D5). The limitation of "each of said plurality of personal control units ... connected to said video camera control module for operating the video camera control module to independently select a desired field of view for each of said video display modules" distinguishes over a passenger just selecting one of the two camera channels. In effect, Henderson discloses a single control unit which can select a field of view by selecting of a camera and zooming in and out with manual controls. The examiner found that Fig. 8 of Baker shows a plurality of personal control units which can independently select a field of view from a single image for display on video display modules and concluded that it would have been obvious to modify Henderson to have a plurality of personal control units in view of Baker. We sustained the rejection.

Arguments on rehearing

Appellants state (RR2):

At page 8 of the decision, the Patent Board found that Baker et al. "reasonably suggests a plurality of personal control units." The basis given for this finding is that Baker et al. discloses human input for controlling image transformations, which the Patent Board acknowledges at page 8 as being input from a single user.

Although we have not yet gotten to appellants' argument, we note that we did not find Baker limited to a single user. Our decision found that "Baker discloses user controls as part of a

transform processor 22 at column 6, lines 40-49, and in Fig. 1 for a single user" (D8). We further found and concluded (D8-9):

Figure 8 shows multiple image processing subsystems 80 which permit multiple different outputs. It is at least reasonably suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art that the transformation in each image processing system 80 can be controlled by human or computer input in view of the disclosure with respect to the single image processing system in Fig. 6. While there are no user input controls shown in Fig. 8, no input controls are shown in Fig. 6. Accordingly, Baker, when read as a whole, fairly suggests to one of ordinary skill in the art allowing multiple users to independently select images from a single image source, where the multiple user input controls would be the personal control units.

That is, since Baker discloses multiple image processing subsystems 80, and since an individual transform processor 22 has user controls, Baker fairly suggests that each of the image processing subsystems 80, each having an output to a display through a RAMDAC 78, could correspond to an individual user. As stated by the examiner (EA9): "In other words, each one of the displays shown in Figure 8 of Baker et al is being controlled by a respective user for providing the desired images, and since each user has the capabilities of manipulating the images, personal control units are obviously being provided for the video control modules 80 for such manipulations."

Appellants argue (RR2-3):

Furthermore, Baker et al. relates to a visual imaging system for electronic manipulation of wide angle hemispheric scenes, such as the multimedia technique used at theme parks, of displaying on a screen or collection of screens that covers almost 360 degrees field of view, in which the display constructs abutting subimages, for which it would be

inappropriate to have multiple user controls. At page 9, the Patent Board indicated that Baker et al. is not limited to this one application, concluding that Baker et al. thus suggests multiple personal control units. It is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching, suggestion or motivation in Baker et al. of multiple personal control units corresponding to multiple video display modules and connected to a video camera control module for operating the video camera control module to independently select a desired field of view for each of the video display modules, as is claimed. It is respectfully submitted that interpretation of Baker et al. as suggesting multiple operators with multiple control units to independently select a desired field of view is inappropriate, since Baker et al. discloses that each desired field of view is a subimage segment of a whole image.

We disagree. We refer to the examiner's reasoning at EA8-9, which we quote at D7, which relies on column 12, lines 28-41 and column 13, lines 8-31, of Baker and the reasoning at D8-9 of our decision. Baker states (col. 13, lines 9-19):

Finally, the transform processor subsystem can produce multiple different outputs simultaneously from individual stored or concurrently-converted images. With the main transform processor circuits collected into a simplified image processing subsystem 80 as shown in FIG. 7, multiple outputs may be generated from a single image source, either motion or still, with individual effects for each scene as desired, allowing several scenes on different display devices or several windows on a single display. This is accomplished by incorporating several image processing subsystems 80 within one overall system, as shown in FIG. 8.

In our opinion, one of ordinary skill in the art would not read this teaching of producing multiple different image outputs from multiple image processing subsystems 80 as limited to producing image outputs which are part of a mosaic of images. The reference to "several windows on a single display" indicates that the system is not limited to a mosaic of images abutting each

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other. The displays connected via RAMDACs 78 in Fig. 8 correspond to "video display modules." We find the multiple image processing subsystems 80 in Fig. 8 of Baker to correspond to "a plurality of personal control units." Baker reasonably suggests that the multiple image processing subsystems 80 allow a plurality of users to "independently select a desired field of view for each of said video display modules" from a single image source. Thus, it would have been obvious to provide a plurality of personal control units for independently selecting a desired field of view from a single image instead of the single system control unit (SCU) in Henderson given the teachings of Baker.

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We have considered appellants' request for rehearing, but are not persuaded of any error in our decision. Accordingly, the request for rehearing is denied.

No time period for taking any subsequent action in connection with this appeal may be extended under 37 CFR § 1.136(a).

DENIED

JAMES D. THOMAS
Administrative Patent Judge


LEE E. BARRETT
Administrative Patent Judge

Joseph F. Ruggiero
JOSEPH F. RUGGIERO
Administrative Patent Judge

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